



KSC Countdown

Oct. 31, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 78

Discovery moving to VAB a day early



◆ Shuttle Update:

Discovery is scheduled to roll over to the Vehicle Assembly Building today, a day earlier than expected, to be attached to its external fuel tank and twin solid rocket boosters. The first motion is expected no earlier than noon. Stacking and subsequent checkout should take about a week, putting rollout to the pad early next week.

Discovery's launch window opens Dec. 7. During its 11-day mission to the International Space Station, the STS-116 crew of seven astronauts will deliver a third truss segment, a SPACEHAB module and other key components during the shuttle's 20th mission to the International Space Station. One of the crew, astronaut Sunita Williams, will join the Expedition 14 crew, replacing Thomas Reiter, who will return to Earth on Discovery.

◆ ISS Update: An unpiloted Russian cargo spacecraft docked to the aft port of the Zvezda Service Module on the International Space Station Thursday with almost 2.5 tons of food, fuel and supplies for the space station's Expedition 14 crew.

In other activities, the crew conducted sound level measurements in the station's modules and installed cables in the Russian segment of the station. They performed regular station maintenance and took time to chat with a reporter from the *Orange*

County Register in California on Tuesday. Reiter continued his work with European plant growth experiments while throughout the week Michael Lopez-Alegria did log entries for a sleep experiment.

In two weeks, the crew will begin preparations for a spacewalk Nov. 22 by Mikhail Tyurin and Lopez-Alegria in Russian Orlan suits from the Pirs Docking Compartment to replace and retrieve several science experiments from the hull of the Zvezda Service Module. Tyurin also plans to hit a golf ball from a bracket on Pirs as part of a Russian commercial activity.

■ NASA Science — Researchers are putting the finishing touches on a new life support system for the International Space Station that seems to come right out of the pages of science fiction. You can read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/30oct_ecss.htm?list29875.

■ Indian River Bridge Modifications — Modifications to the Indian River Bridge (S.R. 405) will begin Nov. 6. The eastbound lanes will be closed Nov. 6 through 12, requiring traffic to be reduced to one lane each way. The westbound lanes will be closed Nov. 13 through 20 and traffic will again be reduced to one lane each way. There will be no impact to intercoastal maritime operations during any phase of this upgrade operation. Normal traffic flow should resume on or about Nov. 20.

Station crew ready to unload supplies from Russian Progress

■ NASA Project Management (PM) Challenge 2007 — Registration is now open online at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/registration2007.htm> for NASA's Fourth PM Challenge conference to be held Feb. 6 and 7 in Galveston, Texas. The conference theme is "Knowledge Sharing." Speaker abstracts and biographies are now posted at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/program.htm#Programsummary>. Questions regarding the conference can be directed to Niloo Naderi at Niloofar.Naderi.1@gsfc.nasa.gov.

■ Education Opportunity — Barry University is now offering the Master of Science in Information Technology degree online. Registration is now also under way for all undergraduate degrees in information technology, administration, public administration, human resources and psychology. Spring semester begins Jan. 8, and classes are offered in Merritt Island, Melbourne, Titusville and Palm Bay, as well as east and south Orlando. Undergraduate students may be eligible to earn up to 30 credits from work experience through Barry's Portfolio Program. For more information on all degree programs, please visit www.barry.edu/ace, call 321-453-6253 or e-mail lgrant@mail.barry.edu.

■ Did You Know? Attraction tickets are available for purchase only in the HQ store until further notice.